

4-23-12

Professional Standards Commission
Katie Rhodenbaugh
Professional Standards Coordinator
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027

Dear Ms. Rhodenbaugh,

On behalf of our school, Frederick Post Kindergarten, I would like to thank you for the grant which allowed us to purchase the book Teaching With Poverty in Mind. We have met as a staff for the past few weeks using this book as a resource to guide our discussions. As classroom teachers, we see firsthand the effects of poverty on our students each day. This book study was a way for us to understand more about those effects and be able to put some effective strategies in place to help students who are living in poverty. Our staff discussions centered around just what effects poverty does have on children and also what we can do to help these children be more successful in the classroom.

We chose this book as the center of our discussions because it contained research based information. We were looking for a resource that would inspire us as a staff to really delve into the area of students living in poverty. What we discovered was that we were in fact already providing many of the enriching activities supported in the book. Obviously, there are always more ways we could incorporate changes into our daily classroom environments. Of particular interest to our staff was the fact that daily activity is one of the most effective ways to improve students learning. We discussed that even though research supports this fact, in reality PE and recess times have been severely limited in the past few years. This is definitely an area that we will revisit in the future, as well.

Overall, this book study was a successful process. As a staff we were able to discuss the impact of such a pervasive problem in our schools and brainstorm how we can better assist these children.

Sincerely,
Anna Wilson
Frederick Post Kindergarten
Post Falls, Idaho